

# Potomac ALMANAC

Caroline Semmler holds her 1-year-old Maltese, Buddy, at Saturday's Easter Egg hunt for dogs at the home of Suzie Friedman. The event raised funds for Lucky Dog Animal Rescue.

## Bullis Boys' Lax Knocks Off Landon

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PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

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# PETS

Partnership for Animal Welfare (PAW) is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit group. To adopt an animal, volunteer or make a tax-deductible donation, visit [www.paw-rescue.org](http://www.paw-rescue.org), call 301-572-4729 or write to PAW, P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768.



**Juno (Dog)**- F, 2 yrs., 50 lbs., spayed, Plotthound mix- Juno is a beautiful, shy country girl now looking for a home in the D.C. area. She is easy-going, has great house manners, and warms to gentle humans well. Juno would be best in a non-hectic home with another even-tempered dog, like a hound, as a companion to help her with her adjustment.



**Charlie (Dog)**- M, 3 yrs, 46 lbs, neutered, Lab mix- Happy Charlie is always where the people congregate at an adoption show. His good looks and great temperament and affectionate nature draws people to him. Charlie will be a lucky someone's best buddy or kids' playmate for the right adopter.



**Miranda (Dog)**- F, 4 yrs, 33 lbs, spayed Lab mix- Miranda was another stray dog whose owner didn't care enough to find her. She's sweet and bit shy but warms quickly to kind humans and loves to cuddle. Miranda will blossom in the home of kind owners who will give her the TLC she deserves.



**Freckles (Dog)**- F, 1yr, 53 lbs, spayed, Pointer/Terrier mix- Freckles is a happy, alert dog that seems to be looking for an active owner to give her direction. She's eager and willing to please so she will take to training easily. Freckles would prefer being an only dog but will reward an active owner with a willingness to go on her owner's adventures.

## LET'S TALK Real Estate



by  
**Michael Matese**

### Broker Open House

One sure way to help sell a house is to let other Realtors know about it. An agent will let the other Realtors in her office know a prime property has become available within their office and that starts the ball rolling, but a Broker Open House will expose that particular property to every Broker in the area and has on occasion been the cause of an immediate sale.

Here's a secret: Broker's love Open House events. It gives them the opportunity to preview a house, to find out if it suits their customer's needs and gives them the first, best opportunity to beat the competition.

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"Hey, Lander, aren't you supposed to be running around like the rest of the dogs?" asks 2-year old Mollie Merchak.



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Iris Heise, a volunteer with Lucky Dog, gives out treats. Six-year-old Pearl, a poodle mix, begs for a treat.

## Easter Bunny's Four-Legged Friends

An Easter Egg Hunt for dogs was held Saturday, April 7 to benefit the Lucky Dog Animal Rescue.



Suzie Friedman, who hosted the Easter event at her house, asks the owners and their dogs to get ready for the Easter Egg Hunt.



Dogs and their owners gather for the start of the Easter Egg hunt. The dog that finds the most eggs wins a prize. There were 600 eggs hidden in the woods. Special prizes were awarded for finding the six golden eggs.



Madison Gramm, 10, holds 2-year-old Quinn Offutt. Both are from Potomac.



Diego, a 5-year-old Chihuahua came with his owner, Amber Speights, from Silver



Six-year-old Bailey poses for his Easter picture with Peter Cottontail (Gary Caley).



Tessie, a 9-year-old Golden Retriever, shakes hands with her owner, David Schmucker.

## Internet Safety for Children

'Facebook 101' draws scores to seminar at Churchill.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE ALMANAC

Facebook's goal is to make the world more open and connected. But if millions of people are connected, "it's hard to think of a population that big without any crime," said Brooke Oberwetter, of Facebook.

"Safety is a conversation that has to happen at home," she said. "It's important you have this conversation early and you have your conversation often."

More than 125 people, including parents, students, teachers and middle school and high school counselors, attended a seminar "Protecting Our Kids: Facebook 101 ... and Beyond" at Churchill High School last month with Attorney General Doug Gansler and Facebook officials.

"Laws are woefully behind the technology," said Gansler.

"We need a partnership with parents to keep our kids safe," said principal Joan Benz, calling cyber bullying "a real concern not only in Montgomery County but across the country."

The seminar offered tips for parents,

SEE FACEBOOK 101, PAGE 5

**"Laws are woefully behind the technology."**

— Attorney General Doug Gansler

### Tips for Parents

- ❖ Keep computer in common area
- ❖ Observe same rules for smartphones as you would for computers
- ❖ Set rules about what your children can access and how long they can be online
- ❖ Check your browser history
- ❖ Determine if any additional filtering, tracking or blocking software is appropriate
- ❖ Teach children to consider who might be looking at profiles, including potential college admission staff and employers
- ❖ Teach children to tell a trusted adult if they see something harmful online or inappropriate
- ❖ Review privacy settings with your children
- ❖ Select friends/followers/connections carefully
- ❖ Know your children's passwords and make sure they never share passwords with others.

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## SCHOOLS



Students from Bells Mill Elementary School will participate in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in Iowa in May.

## Bells Mill Students Take First in State

### Next: Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in Iowa.

A team of third and fourth graders will represent Bells Mill Elementary School at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in Iowa this May. Alyssa Gabidouline, Elizabeth Li, Ben Lojaco-Evans, Ellen Newbold, Cece Price, Carina Rosenbaum, and Margaret Tilmes recently won first place for their solution to the NASA-sponsored challenge at the annual Maryland State Odyssey of the Mind Competition.

Over the next few weeks, the team will be preparing to go to the World Finals in Iowa, where some 900 teams from all 50 states and 25 other countries will participate.

"It is good for kids to see that great opportunities open up when they work hard. It's also great to see girls working as scientists. We're proud of the team and wish them well at Iowa," said Bells Mill Principal Jerri Oglesby.

The Bells Mill team chose the NASA-sponsored "Weird Science" problem. They had to pick a NASA satellite picture of one location on Earth and develop an imaginative story about "mysterious events" happening at that site. A team of scientists needed to travel to the location to investigate the mystery. Their solution had to be presented in a performance scored on technical and style elements and lasting no more than eight minutes, within a budget of \$145 or less.

After much debate, the team chose a NASA picture of the Richat Structure. Known as the "Eye of the Sahara," the Richat Structure is an ancient volcano that collapsed into a perfect spiral in the Sahara Desert. The team pictured the structure as a giant snail and decided that a team of "snailien" scientists might be sent on a mission by their queen to

find life similar to their own in the Milky Way galaxy. After an adventurous trip across space they decide to go investigate the "giant snail city" in the desert. There, the "snailien" scientists have an exchange with a Bedouin "Dad" who knows the ancient legends and his modern, educated Bedouin daughter who teaches them the science behind the Richat Structure in Mauritania.

To stay within their budget of just \$145, the team turned a large aquarium box into a spaceship; painted paper tablecloths to make wormholes, black holes and planets for sets, built a model of the Richat Structure using papier-maché and used silly straws as antennae and remnant cloth sewn to make costumes.

Coach Sheila Heslin said, "It was a lot of fun working with this dynamic and determined group of kids. They worked hard, meeting several days a week for the past two months. They learned how to work together, support each other, and perform in front of an audience. They really expanded their horizons and experienced a true odyssey of exploration."

Bill Klein received the Omer Award and named Maryland's Odyssey of the Mind Coach of the Year, for his efforts to bring Odyssey of the Mind to Bells Mill Elementary and Cabin John Middle School. Klein said that, "It's a great experience. When kids finish performing and realize what they've done with just their creativity, teamwork, and determination, they experience a tremendous sense of accomplishment and pride, whether they win or not. I am glad to see Odyssey of the Mind taking root here."

Over the coming weeks, the Bells Mill team will be working hard to raise funds to cover their expenses, including for transportation, lodging and registration. Any contribution to help defray costs would be appreciated. Checks can be made payable to Bells Mill Elementary School, with "OM" in the memo section. Donations are tax deductible.

### BULLETIN BOARD

#### THURSDAY/APRIL 19

**Sharing Feelings About Vision Loss.** 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Join the Prevention of Blindness Society for a complimentary lunch and conversation about vision loss and its impact on a person's quality of life. At Friendship Heights Village Center, 4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase. Call 301-656-2797 to reserve your spot.

Alzheimer's Association Early-Stage Support Group for Persons with Dementia and their Caregivers. An eight-week support and information series beginning Thursday, May 10 at 7 p.m. Meets at The Misler Center, located on the Terrace Level of The Ring House, 1801 East Jefferson Street, Rockville. Contact James Brigl at 301-255-4205 or jbrigl@accessjca.org.

**Club** is a group of more than 200 women who have moved to the Potomac area from all over the United States and around the world.

The club offers such activities as bridge, mah jong, book groups, golf, luncheons and museum trips as a way to help newcomers as well as current residents to form new friendships, expand their horizons, and take advantage of the opportunities that are available in the Washington, D.C. area. Check its web site at <http://www.potomacnewcomers.com>

#### THURSDAY/MAY 10

Alzheimer's Support Group. 7 p.m.

#### ONGOING

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# Parents Seek Answers at 'Facebook 101'

FROM PAGE 3

including observing the same rules for smart phones as computers, reviewing privacy settings with children so only appropriate information is made public and asking to view your children's online profiles and teaching them to consider who might be looking at their profiles, such as potential college admissions staff or potential employers.

**"Safety is a conversation that has to happen at home."**

— Brook Oberwetter, Facebook

Teenagers don't believe they're susceptible to dangers on the Internet, said Gansler. "They believe they're technologically invincible, but they aren't."

**PRIVACY AND SAFETY** settings on Facebook pages are designed not only to help teenagers understand their possible audiences, but to report problems, threats, harassment or people who are using Facebook for "nefarious purposes."

A global team works around the



FROM 'FACEBOOK 101' PRESENTATION

clock and literally around the world on safety issues, said Oberwetter.

"We can move fairly quickly on threats of harm, but law enforcement can move more quickly," Oberwetter said.

Oberwetter walked parents through such settings at the seminar, as well as encouraging parents to have their children walk them through the privacy and safety settings to enable discussions and decisions.

She also encouraged parents to "friend" their children on Facebook.

"You trust that you send your child to school each day, you're sending them to a safe environment. You're not aware of every conversation they are having," Oberwetter said. "We want to create a safe environment. You're not going to know every word that your child utters, but you know they are in a safe place."

## Resources

**Maryland Attorney General's Internet Safety Page**  
www.oag.state.md.us/internetsafety

**Marland Attorney General's Community Leadership in Cyber Knowledge and Safety**  
www.oag.state.md.us/clicks.htm

**ConnectSafely** www.connectsafely.org

**GetNetWise** www.getnetwise.org

**NetSmartz** www.netsmartz.org

**Common Sense Media**  
www.common SenseMedia.org/educators/parent-media-education/

**Federal Trade Commission**  
www.ftc.gov/bcp/menus/consumer/tech/privacy.shtm

But as wonderful as Facebook is, Gansler warned that technology is always a "fertile ground for sexual predators."

"The nature of Facebook is to be public," he said. Kids trust kids that they shouldn't be trusting, he said. Those kids give other kids their passwords. "That's just inane."

A lot of parents feel lost and helpless when trying to ensure their children's safety in the modern world. He offered parents a number of resources to turn to. (See sidebar.)

"We know very little about what they are doing, you're hoping they'll get it right," Gansler said.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

### SUNDAYS THROUGH APRIL

**Children's Handchime Choir.** 11:15 a.m. Elementary-age children are invited to participate in a handchime choir at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Bethesda. Directed by master bell ringer Brent Keith, the group will meet Sundays at 11:15 a.m. at RRUUC in Room 25. (Teens interested in assisting are encouraged to inquire.) Participants will learn to play the chimes, perform as part of an ensemble, and participate in musical group activities. Contact Ann Richards at 301-229-0400, arichards@rruuc.org. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation is located at 6301 River Road, Bethesda. Visit [www.rruuc.org](http://www.rruuc.org).

### APRIL 12, 13, 14

**Celebrate Life of Clara Barton.** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. At the Open House at Clara Barton National Historic Site. On Friday, April 13, hourly tours will highlight Miss Barton's legacy and the period surrounding her death, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; On Saturday, April 14, the actress, Mary Ann Jung will portray Clara Barton in performance at the Bumper Car Pavilion in Glen Echo Park. Performances at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. are free. On Sunday, April 15, a symposium on Clara Barton featuring author Elizabeth Brown Pryor and GWU women's history scholar Bonnie Morris will take place at Glen Echo's Spanish Ballroom Annex from 1 to 3 p.m. Call 301-320-1410.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 12

**Potomac Toddlers.** 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes for toddlers 12-to-36 months and their caregivers. No registration required. At the Potomac Library.

**Slow Blues and Swing Dance.** 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte and Guests. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. At the Back Room at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to [info@CapitalBlues.org](mailto:info@CapitalBlues.org) or [www.CapitalBlues.org](http://www.CapitalBlues.org).

**Author Heidi Durrow.** 7 p.m. Free. Author of "The Girl Who Fell From the Sky." She will be presented with the McLaughlin-Esstman-Stearns First Novel Prize. Book signing and award presentation. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda. Call 301-654-8664.

### APRIL 13 THROUGH 15

**Sugarloaf Crafts Festival.** More than 250 craftspeople will be selling their wares. Admission is \$7/online; \$9/door. Friday, April 13 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, April 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg. Visit [www.sugarloafcrafter.com](http://www.sugarloafcrafter.com).

### APRIL 13 TO APRIL 29

**"Baby."** Presented by Rockville Musical Theatre. Performance dates are: April



### THURSDAY/APRIL 12

**Viver Brasil: Feet on the Ground.** 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$55. A cultural survey of Brazil with contemporary dance, vibrant costumes and pulsating percussion. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) or call 301-581-5100.

13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28 at 8 p.m.; and April 15, 22, 29 at 2 p.m. For tickets, call 301-258-6394. Performances are held at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 13

**Zydeco and Cajun Dance.** 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the band, Dennis Stroughmatt and Creole Stomp. Introductory dance lesson from 8:30 to 9 p.m. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Michael Hart at 301-762-6730 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, or go to [www.DancingbytheBayou.com](http://www.DancingbytheBayou.com).

**Churchill Booster Club Gala/Fundraiser.** 8 to 11 p.m. At Bowlmor Lanes in Bethesda. All proceeds go towards supporting the school's student athletes and sports. Tickets are \$55/person; \$100/couple, which includes dinner, unlimited bowling, prizes, music, videos and more. Sponsored by the Churchill High School Booster's Club.

### APRIL 13 TO 15

**Sugarloaf Crafts Festival.** More than 250 craftspeople will be selling one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted items. Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, April 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7/online; \$9/door. At the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg. Visit [www.sugarloafcrafter.com](http://www.sugarloafcrafter.com).

### SATURDAY/APRIL 14

**AIDS Benefit Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Featuring Fred Hersch, widely-praised solo jazz pianist. Suggested donation: \$35, \$25 for students and seniors. All proceeds from this concert will benefit Dennis Avenue Health Center, La Clinica del Pueblo, and The Association of Francois-Xavier Bagnoud. At Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601

Bradley Blvd, Bethesda. Call 301-365-2850 or visit [www.bradleyhillchurch.org](http://www.bradleyhillchurch.org).

**Jazz Pianist Fred Hersch.** 7:30 p.m. An interfaith concert to benefit HIV/AIDS. Donation of \$35 at door; \$25/seniors and students. At Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Concert beneficiaries: The Dennis Avenue Health Center HIV/AIDS Program, The Association of Francois-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) South Africa, and La Clinica del Pueblo "Entre Amigas" Program.

**BSO Classical Concert: "Romeo and Juliet."** 8 p.m. Tickets are \$39 to \$98. Call With Lionel Bringuier, conductor; and Jonathan Carney, violin. At the Music Center at Strathmore. Call 410-783-8000 or BSOmusic.org.

**Book Sale.** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter. Most hardbacks \$1 and paperbacks \$.50. Three hours. At the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Dr., Potomac.

**Potomac River Watershed Cleanup.** Thousands of volunteers of all ages will pick up trash from different cleanup sites around the region. To find a cleanup site near you, go to [www.PotomacCleanup.org](http://www.PotomacCleanup.org) or call 202-973-8203.

**Free Remodeling Seminar.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hopkins & Porter Inc. will offer a free design and remodeling seminar, which includes a complimentary lunch as an opportunity to discuss one's own project with a professional staff. The workshop will provide information no-obligation discussions with Hopkins & Porter designers. Space is limited to 15 participants per session, so RSVP is a must. Call Debbie at 301-840-9121, #27, to reserve a space or email her at [debbie@hopkinsandporter.com](mailto:debbie@hopkinsandporter.com)

### APRIL 14-15

**Mid-Atlantic Regional Daffodil Show.** Free admission. Saturday, April 14 from 2 to 5 p.m.; Sunday, April 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guided tours of show at 3 p.m. daily. Sponsored by the Washington Daffodil Society. At Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton.

### THROUGH APRIL 15

**"Frozen."** Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Presented by the Rockville Little Theatre. Directed by Kevin O'Connell. At Randolph Road Theatre, 4010 Randolph Road, Silver Spring. Visit [www.rlt-online.org](http://www.rlt-online.org). Call 301-221-5434.

### SUNDAY/APRIL 15

**Rockville Science Day.** Noon to 5 p.m. More than 60 exhibitors will offer the opportunity to launch rockets, program

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Bethesda Art Walk is Friday, April 13

The Bethesda Art Walk will feature seven art galleries hosting art exhibitions on Friday, April 13 from 6-9 p.m. The opening exhibitions will include painting, sculpture, photography, pottery, mixed media and more. The Bethesda Art Walk takes place the second Friday of every month from 6-9 p.m. Additional information including a map showing each gallery location can be found at [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

Participating Galleries and Studios  
Participating Galleries and Studios  
Artery Plaza Gallery, 7200 Wisconsin Avenue  
Bella Italia, 4934 Hampden Lane  
California Tortilla, 4862 Cordell Avenue  
Gallery St. Elmo, 4938 St. Elmo Avenue  
L'Eclat de Verre, 7015 Wisconsin Avenue  
Upstairs Art Studios, 4948 St. Elmo Avenue  
Washington School of Photography, 4850 Rugby Avenue  
Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East West Highway  
The Waygoose Redux, 4926 Hampden Lane

## FINE ARTS



**NOW THROUGH APRIL 29**

**Artist Felisa Federman.** Mixed media on canvas and paper. Artist's reception is Sunday, April 1 from 3 to 5 p.m. She is a resident artist at The Art Gallery of Potomac. At River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Fellowship Hall, 6301 River Road, Bethesda; call 301-229-0400.

### MONTH OF APRIL

**'Variety Art' Exhibit.** Bernie Wilder, a Potomac-based artist who began donating to Child Welfare Services' Adopt a Social Worker program a decade ago, is presenting "Variety Art." To benefit the county's Child Welfare Services "Adopt A Social Worker" Program. The exhibit features 24 pieces of art from seven artists. The artists represented are Wilder, a Potomac resident and oil painter; Rockville resident Marla Rudnik, a metal sculptor and jewelry maker; Rockville resident Shelley Bain, an acrylic painter; Potomac resident Valen Brown, an acrylic painter; District of Columbia resident Lou Kaplan, an oil painter; Potomac resident Rujia Shemer, a watercolor painter; and Rockville resident Nadia Azumi, a silk painter. At Amici Mie Ristorante, 1093 Seven Locks Road in the Potomac Woods Plaza in Potomac. The restaurant is open Monday through Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 4:30 to 9 p.m.

### APRIL 10 TO MAY 5

**Quietude.** Paintings by Loriann Signori and New Work by Gallery Artists. Artist's reception will be Friday, April 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. A demonstration will be held Saturday, April 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441. Visit [www.waverlystreetgallery.com](http://www.waverlystreetgallery.com)

### NOW THROUGH APRIL 14

**Works by John Paton Davies Jr.** A Singular View: The Art and Words of John Paton Davies, Jr., an exhibit of monoprints from the archives of the American diplomat and artist. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Call 301-581-5100 or visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

### NOW THROUGH APRIL 24

**Multimedia Artists Showcased.** Free. The assemblage and works on paper of Carolyn Jean; fiber work and rug hooking of Roslyn Logsdon; and fiber work by the Tuesday

Quilters will be showcased. Artist's reception is Sunday/ April 1 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The Bruce Swaim Quartet will perform between 2 and 3 p.m. At Glenview Mansion Art Gallery, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/arts](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/arts) or contact Julie Farrell at 240-314-8682 or [jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov).

### APRIL 28 AND 29

**Artist Tom Gannon.** Essays in Abstraction — And Beyond. At the Yellow Barn Gallery in Glen Echo. The show is open to the public. Gallery hours are 12 noon to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, and 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 29. A reception for the artist is scheduled for April 28 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Call Tom by phone at 301-922-1690 or by e-mail at [tmgannon46@gmail.com](mailto:tmgannon46@gmail.com).

### NOW THROUGH APRIL 29

**DC NOW.** Gallery B is pleased to present its seventh exhibition, DC NOW, curated by Morton Fine Art. DC NOW features new artworks by nationally renowned, Washington, D.C. based contemporary artists Maya Freelon Asante, Billy Colbert, Rosemary Feit Covey, Laurel Hausler and Victoria Shahern. The exhibit will be on display at Gallery B, located at 7700 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite E, Bethesda. Gallery hours are Wednesday – Sunday, 12-6pm.

### MAY 8 TO JUNE 2

**The Wondrous Lotus.** Photographs by Duncan Whitaker and New Work by Gallery Artists. Reception: Friday, May 11, from 6-9 p.m. Meet the Artist: Saturdays, May 12, 19 and 26 and June 2, 2 – 4 p.m. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Call 301-951-9441

### JUNE 5 - JULY 7

**Artwork by Audrey Salkind.** From My Perspective. With new work by gallery artists. Reception: Friday, June 8, 6-9 p.m.; Meet the Artist: Saturdays, June 9, 16, 23; 2 – 4 p.m. At Waverly Street Gallery, 4600 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Visit [www.waverlystreetgallery.com](http://www.waverlystreetgallery.com) or call 301-951-9441

## ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 6

robotics, meet reptiles and conduct experiments. At Montgomery College-Rockville Campus, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. Visit [www.rockvillescience.org](http://www.rockvillescience.org) or email [scienceday@rocknet.org](mailto:scienceday@rocknet.org).

**"Three Perspectives on Vision & Light."** 10:25 a.m. Discussion at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Bunday taught physics for more than 40 years and won numerous awards for excellence in teaching. For the last decade he taught in the Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring. Bundy's discussion is part of RRUUC's ongoing program, Coffee, Controversy and Conversation. It is free and open to the public. At River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda; Visit [www.ruuc.org](http://www.ruuc.org) or call 301-229-0400.

**Waltz Dance.** 3:30 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the band, Over the Topp. Waltz workshop from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m.; dancing from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Call Joan Koury at 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, go to [www.WaltzTimeDances.org](http://www.WaltzTimeDances.org) or e-mail

[info@WaltzTimeDances.org](mailto:info@WaltzTimeDances.org). At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

**Zydeco and Cajun Dance.** 3:30 to 6 p.m. Admission is \$15. With the band, Dennis Stroughmatt and Creole Stomp. Introductory dance lesson from 3 to 3:30 p.m.; dancing from 3:30 to 6 p.m. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park. Call Michael Hart at 301-762-6730 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222, or go to [www.DancingbytheBayou.com](http://www.DancingbytheBayou.com). At 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

**Holy Child Tiger Trot.** 8 a.m. 5K Run/Walk for all ages. Proceeds will support the Health and Wellness programs at The Connelly School of the Holy Child, and the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department. The race is a chip/electronic timed 5K run/walk. To be held at the campus of The Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac (<http://www.holychild.org>). Contact Bunny Lamb at [bunny@5lamb.com](mailto:bunny@5lamb.com) or 301-365-3790.

### TUESDAY/APRIL 17

**The Music of Bill Monroe.** 8 p.m. Featuring Peter Rowan, Tony Rice and

The Travelin' McCourys. Tickets: \$25-\$55 (Stars Price \$22.50-\$49.50). At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) or call 301-581-5100.

**Fearful Dogs.** Free phone workshop sponsored by Your Dog's Friend. 7 p.m. Debbie Jacobs founded [www.fearfuldogs.com](http://www.fearfuldogs.com) and is the author of "A Guide to Living With & Training a Fearful Dog." Here's an opportunity to hear Jacobs share her insights and advice for living with a fearful dog. She will discuss: why dogs are afraid; what fear looks like; common myths; how to handle a fearful dog; training concepts and techniques; games and activities. Call in 5 minutes before this 7 p.m. workshop - Dial In: 1-218-862-7200; Conference code: 833973. RSVP and send questions to Donna Zeigfinger ([dzeigfinge@aol.com](mailto:dzeigfinge@aol.com)). This workshop is sponsored by the Meetup Puppy Mill Support Group, which hosts a monthly phone workshop with trainer Jeni Grant ([www.trainyourbestfriend.com](http://www.trainyourbestfriend.com)) and other experts.

## NORMANDIE FARM



*Katie Anastasi!*  
Join us Sunday, April 15th:  
11:30 am to 4:00 pm  
Celebrate "Kalo Pascha!"  
With our Special  
**"Greek Easter Buffet"**

|                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Mageritsa</i>    | <i>Pastitsio</i>                |
| <i>Easter Eggs</i>  | <i>Spanakopita</i>              |
| <i>Mezethakia</i>   | <i>Tyropita</i>                 |
| <i>Salata</i>       | <i>Roast Chicken &amp; lamb</i> |
| <i>Easter Bread</i> | <i>Pastries &amp; desserts</i>  |

**Adults \$35.00/Children \$15.00**

**"Kalo Pascha!"**

**301-983-8838**

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## The Healthy Use of Technology

with Edward Spector, Psy.D.



- Do you or someone you love have an unhealthy relationship with technology?
- Has your work or grades suffered because of your use of technology?
- Are you spending too much time managing and obsessing about your Facebook page?
- Do you find it hard to spend time away from your smart phone?

Technology can enhance our lives in many ways but when used in excess, technology can have a negative impact. Excessive use of electronic media can be an attempt to cope with significant psychological problems, such as depression, anxiety, ADHD, or social skills deficits. Dr. Edward Spector will discuss the healthy use of technology, including common forms of electronic games, the Internet (social networking sites and online communities), and smart phones. Dr. Spector is a licensed psychologist with expertise in helping children, adolescents, and adults in individual and group therapy.



**\$15/person | \$25/couple**

**\$5/student**

Fee waivers available.

CEUs (2 hours): Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners (Category 1), \$10 fee.

Proceeds fund the prevention services of YMCA Youth & Family Services. Traducción al Español disponible.

Reasonable disability accommodations available on request. Please contact Pam Mintz at 301-229-1347 by April 9. ♿

**Thursday, April 19, 2012**

Suburban Hospital Auditorium  
8600 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814

**6:30 pm Registration**  
(Please allow time for parking)

**7 – 9 pm Seminar**

**Registration:**

[www.yfstechnology.eventbrite.com](http://www.yfstechnology.eventbrite.com)



# Potomac REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

IN FEBRUARY 2012, 22 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$1,950,000-\$380,000.

## Top Sales in February 2012



1 11701 Centurion Way, Potomac — \$1,950,000



2 9721 The Corral Drive, Potomac — \$1,950,000

3 12529 Sycamore View Drive, Potomac — \$1,675,000



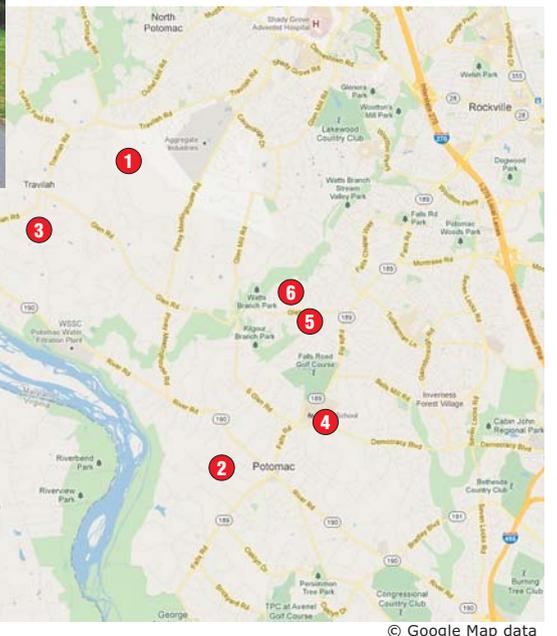
4 10412 Democracy Boulevard, Potomac — \$1,175,000



5 9730 Clagett Farm Drive, Potomac — \$1,105,000



6 11904 Tallwood Court, Potomac — \$1,030,000



| Address                  | BR | FB | HB | Postal  | City | Sold Price  | Type     | Lot AC | Postal Code | Subdivision      | Date Sold |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|---------|------|-------------|----------|--------|-------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1 11701 CENTURION WAY    | 7  | 8  | 3  | POTOMAC | ...  | \$1,950,000 | Detached | 2.00   | 20854       | PALATINE         | 02/03/12  |
| 2 9721 THE CORRAL DR     | 4  | 5  | 1  | POTOMAC | ...  | \$1,950,000 | Detached | 2.08   | 20854       | POTOMAC MANOR    | 02/22/12  |
| 3 12529 SYCAMORE VIEW DR | 6  | 6  | 2  | POTOMAC | ...  | \$1,675,000 | Detached | 2.00   | 20854       | STONE CREEK FARM | 02/21/12  |
| 4 10412 DEMOCRACY BLVD   | 5  | 5  | 0  | POTOMAC | ...  | \$1,175,000 | Detached | 2.00   | 20854       | CAMOTOP          | 02/15/12  |
| 5 9730 CLAGETT FARM DR   | 6  | 5  | 0  | POTOMAC | ...  | \$1,105,000 | Detached | 0.24   | 20854       | CLAGETT FARM     | 02/15/12  |
| 6 11904 TALLWOOD CT      | 4  | 4  | 1  | POTOMAC | ...  | \$1,030,000 | Detached | 0.37   | 20854       | GLEN OAKS        | 02/24/12  |

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© Google Map data

# Home Life Style

Local pros share the latest design trends for this essential space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE ALMANAC

Updating or renovating a bathroom can be a daunting project. From selecting tile and fixtures to choosing a tub and vanity, options are overwhelmingly plentiful. One source of inspiration when transforming a boring bath into a luxurious, spa-inspired retreat is the newly released National Kitchen and Bathroom Association's annual design trend survey. The 2012 list offers a snapshot of the latest in bathroom decor. Local designers and association members discuss the list and share their ideas for making stunning visual statement in this essential space.

**FREESTANDING TUBS.** The focal point of any bathroom is the tub. Local designers say a freestanding tub can transform a bathroom into serene sanctuary. "It is like your master bathroom is like a hotel," said designer Megan Padilla of Aidan Design. "We're seeing the emergence of the bathroom as a retreat or spa experience."

**POLISHED CHROME.** Bathroom accessories are increasingly bright and shiny as polished nickel and chrome finishes gain popularity. "Polished chrome tends to work especially well with grays, blues and white. It is also an easy choice if you are budget-conscious," said Falls Church-based designer Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling. "Another choice is polished nickel. It has nice brown undertones that can pair well when you're going outside the traditional white and grey tones."

Some designers say that brushed metal finishes are still a practical choice for many homeowners. "Many people prefer brushed nickel because it shows fewer water spots and looks cleaner," said David Doughton, kitchen and bathroom designer at the Kitchen and Bath Factory in Arlington.

**WATER CLOSETS.** Designer April Case Underwood of Case Design/Remodeling has seen a spike in the demand for bathrooms with a separate room for the toilet. "If the bathroom is large enough, a lot of people like to add water closets. Even though they are sharing a bathroom with a spouse or



Large tile and solid surfaces — like those used in this Bethesda home — are among the top trends in bathroom design for 2012.



## Creating a Dream Bathroom

Local designers say freestanding tubs and large tile — like those used in the master bathroom of this Potomac home — are among the top design trends of 2012.

partner, water closets give them the opportunity to be a little bit more private when they are using the toilet."

**MEDICINE CABINETS.** As homeowners look for effective ways to add additional storage space, shelving and cabinetry in the bathroom, the time-tested medicine cabinet is making a re-emergence after a decline in popularity. "In [the Washington, D.C. area] where bathrooms are small, every inch of space is premium," said Doughton. "Medicine cabinets are definitely a must in this area. I've even made units that are 60 inches tall that go behind a door to give people the ample amount of storage space."

Another option is a furniture-style vanity cabinet. "They are different from traditional cabinets because they look like a piece of furniture and can add a 'wow' factor to a bathroom," added Doughton.

**SOLID SURFACES.** When it comes to vanity tops, granite, quartz and marble are the top choices. "Quartz vanity tops are low maintenance, but some people want the natural look of granite," said Doughton.

As an alternative, Mann suggests an engineered stone known as Cambria. "It is man-made and is a good solid surface," said Mann. "It is not a porous material and does not require a lot of maintenance."

A National Kitchen and Bathroom Association survey found that another trend is the use of glass vanity tops. "It gives a bit of flair," said Mann. "It adds a little bit of interest to the space and gives it a little bit of charm and personality."

**SHADES OF GRAY.** While whites and off-whites continue to be the most popular color for bathrooms, gray is gaining ground as a versatile option. When used skillfully, gray color schemes can provide a distinguished backdrop without overpowering a design. "What's nice about gray finishes is that it can accent just about any palette, especially blues or greens," said Doughton.

Mann used gray paint and white marble to turn an Arlington bathroom into a tranquil sanctuary "Gray is pleasing and calming," she said. "It has become the new neutral. [Designers] say it has become the new beige."

**TRANSITIONAL OVER TRADITIONAL.** For the first time since the National Kitchen and Bathroom Association began tracking annual trends, traditional is no longer the most popular design style. Replacing it is transitional style, a combination of traditional and contemporary elements that creates a classic, timeless design.

"I think some people may be afraid to commit to one style over another," said Doughton. "Transitional allows them to incorporate things that they like from both realms and blend them together. What you pair with it really determines which way it sways on the line between modern or contemporary or traditional."

**LARGE TILE.** Local designers say that large tiles for the floor and walls of the shower are a practical and popular choice. "What people like about larger tiles is that there is less grout involved so there is less maintenance and cleaning. It ends up looking like you have one piece of solid flooring in your bathroom," said Doughton.

**MULTIPLE SHOWERHEADS.** Multiple showerheads can turn a daily activity into an indulgent luxury.

"They can create a spa-like feel, but there are also practical and great for young families with little kids," said Padilla. "You can use the hand held hose and rinse the shower down like you would in a sink to clean it out."

PHOTO BY JESSE SNYDER

PHOTO COURTESY OF AIDAN DESIGN

# OPEN HOUSES IN POTOMAC • APRIL 14 & 15



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**Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.**

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6724 Landon.....\$1,285,000.....Sun 1-4.....Frankie Laborwit.....Long & Foster.....301-461-4548

## Cabin John (20818)

8216 Caraway St.....\$2,400,000.....Sun 1-4.....Keith Gould...Exit Realty Plus.....240-426-4651

## North Potomac (20878)

12609 Blue Mountain Ct.....\$599,000.....Sun 2-5.....Stephanie Horwat.....Weichert.....301-385-6115

12816 Pilots Landing Way.....\$1,148,000.....Sun 1-4.....Steve Bull...Coldwell Banker.....301-365-1055

15102 Rollinmead Dr.....\$1,150,000.....Sun 1-4.....Nathan Dart.....Re/Max.....301-933-3333

## Potomac (20854)

10101 Counselman Rd.....\$1,395,000.....Sun 1-4.....Yasmin.....Long & Foster.....301-983-1212

10124 Limestone Ct.....\$1,125,000.....Sun 2-4.....Hans Wylder.....Long & Foster.....301-986-6405

11000 Dobbins Dr.....\$1,049,000.....Sun 2-4.....Adaline Neely...Washington Fine Prop...301-580-2214

11409 Falls.....\$1,699,000.....Sun 1-4.....Norman Domingo.....Xrealty.NET.....888-838-9044

12000 Glen Mill Rd.....\$799,000.....Sun 1-4.....Leslie Friedson.....Long & Foster.....301-455-4506

12707 River Road NW.....\$1,599,000.....Sun 12-4.....Hasni Kuraiski.....A-K.....301-294-9490

12724 Greenbrier Rd.....\$2,574,999.....Sun 2-4.....Carl Becker.....Premier.....301-873-3221

13 Cold Spring Ct.....\$875,000.....Sun 1:30-4:30.....Jay Crosby.....Re/Max.....301-933-3333

13300 Query Mill Rd.....\$1,799,999.....Sun 1-4.....Chris Koons-Byrne.....Long & Foster.....240-672-6628

1501 Kersey Ln.....\$747,000.....Sun 1-4.....Leslie Friedson.....Long & Foster.....301-455-4506

8005 Lakeheath Way.....\$735,000.....Sun 1-4.....Chris Handy.....Re/Max.....240-912-4623

9229 Bentridge Ave.....\$1,099,000.....Sun 1-4.....Leslie Friedson.....Long & Foster.....301-455-4506

9800 Brookford Rd.....\$985,000.....Sun 1-4.....Meg Percesepe...Washington Fine Prop...240-441-8434

## Rockville (20850, 20852)

13205 Jasmine Hill Terr.....\$1,195,000.....Sun 1-4.....Leslie Friedson.....Long & Foster.....301-455-4506

16 Great Pines Ct.....\$525,000.....Sat 1-4.....Victor Llewellyn.....Llewellyn.....301-424-0900

507 Garden View Way.....\$599,000.....Sat 2-4.....Daniel Chen.....Capital.....301-340-7275

636 Crocus Dr.....\$574,900.....Sun 1-3.....Steve Kelley.....Llewellyn.....301-424-0900

10201 Grosvenor Pl #817.....\$219,900.....Sun 1-4.....Christine Sherrod.....Wiechert.....301-598-4222

10401 Grosvenor Pl # 1125.....\$259,999.....Sun 1-4.....Pam Costianes.....Long & Foster.....301-980-0085

11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2318...\$391,335.....Sat 11-6.....Bob Lucido.....Toll.....410-979-6024

11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2332...\$449,335.....Sat 11-6.....Bob Lucido.....Toll.....410-979-6024

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**For an Open House Listing Form,**  
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**All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.**

## Home Life Style

# ‘Why Is My Home Rotting Away?’

BY MICHAEL PORTER DENKER  
 AND TODD MCPHEE  
 SPECIAL TO THE ALMANAC

## HOME WORK

“Mike, why is my house rotting away!?” This is the kind of question brimming with alarm and horror that builders and remodelers often hear.

“How old is your house?” I asked.

“It’s only 15 years old.”

“Ray, your house is not rotting away, but the skin of your house might be.”

“Well, it’s creeping me out. My window trim, some of the siding, and my cedar roof have cancer.”

I had to explain to my distressed acquaintance that we were at the end of an era, that the period when wood was the preferred exterior finish on new homes and additions was over. It’s like the period before the fluoridation of water. Before fluoridation, dentists were spending a lot of their time filling cavities. In our case, every day our employees face having to repair wood rot.

In the building industry today, there is a definite trend away from using wood for the trim and siding on the outside of houses being built. Houses are still being roofed with cedar, but those days are numbered as are those roofs. This trend began 20 years ago and has accelerated recently.

When I first became a builder remodeling and repairing homes 35 years ago, wood was still king. Windows were made of wood, doors were made of wood. The outside skin of the house, unless it was covered with brick or stucco, was wood siding or wood shingles. The trim around doors and windows was wood. The boards that trimmed the edges of the roof were wood.

What has happened, and why? The world has changed. From the 1600s until the mid-20th century Americans were awash in wood, and it was special wood. This wood had grown slowly in the primeval forests. We cut down the forests, but there was always another untouched forest to the west. The last of our ancient forests was on our northwest coast, and we began to cut into those in the late 19th century. By the late 20th century, a cry arose nationally to save what was left of this unique environment in the great Northwest. The environmental and conservation movement helped to limit cutting trees in what was left of those old growth forests. The products from the forests: “old growth” redwood, cedar, and Douglas Fir are no longer available in the generous quantities of the past, and the prices have skyrocketed. Trees that are now grown in plantations grow much more rapidly — and these same species might as well be completely different species.

The knotless giant trees of the great Northwest (and the South for that matter) that fueled the building industry since the late 19th century grew slowly over hundreds of years adding tiny growth rings. If you look at old growth redwood, for example, there could be 20 to 50 years or more per inch. Today’s fast grown redwood have four rings (or four years) to the inch and can, under certain conditions, begin to rot immediately.



**Mike Denker, left, and Todd McPhee of Hopkins & Porter.**

**I WILL NEVER FORGET** the time a client of mine called to ask me to look at his porch railing materials which we had installed only six months before. Much of the wood had turned black and there were mushrooms growing out of the wood. That was a wake up call for me.

Our old trustworthy materials were not working any more. The wood we were buying through the lumber yard was the new stuff, and, to quote one of our carpenters, it was just like marshmallow. Rot and creatures ate it up.

In typical fashion, American ingenuity rushed to replace this missing resource, and, like any change, there has been a period of confusion, some success, but a lot of failure. Along with change in any industry, there are always baby steps that fail, unintended consequences, and companies that go out of business as their new products fail. Even today, none of the new products have been around long enough for us to really know how long they will last under the sun and weather. Many homeowners are familiar with the paper-based siding called Masonite which was only marginally successful, and today we are still tearing it off homes. We now replace Masonite with another new material: cement siding.

Builders and remodelers all over the country are facing the same dilemma I did: the wood that they depended upon is letting them down. As responsible professionals, we have to go back and tear out these defective wood products and replace them, spending thousands of dollars of our own money in the process.

It begs the question: what sort of longevity can any of us expect when it comes to home construction? I like to think 50 years for exterior materials, but, when you compare that to the longevity of the mature wood we used to build with, a 50-year lifespan doesn’t seem very long at all. In the next column we will discuss the new materials, their pros and cons, their costs and what kind of life expectancy they might have.

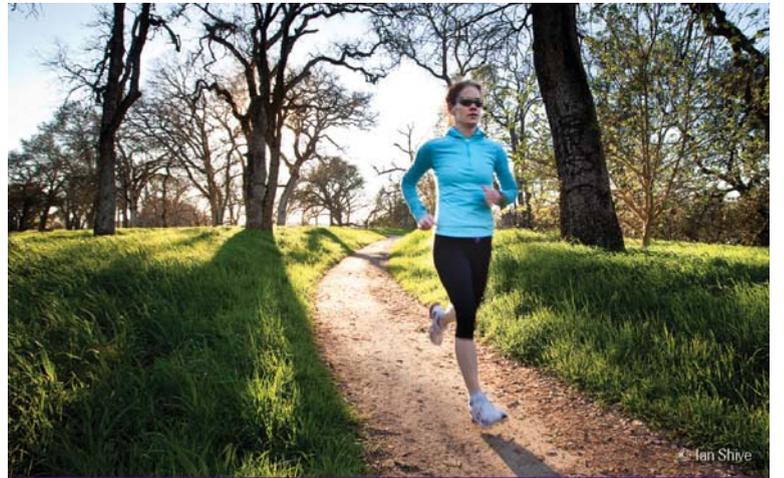
We welcome your questions and comments: [mike@hopkinsandporter.com](mailto:mike@hopkinsandporter.com).

“Home Work” is a monthly column devoted to the mundane but critical issues of looking after one’s home, protecting that investment, and at the same time maintaining one’s sanity.



### In Potomac Village

To better serve their customer base, Village Settlements, Inc., and its affiliated law firm of Savitz, Parker, Hollman, Simon, Hahn & DeLisi, LLC, have opened an office in the Semmes Building located at 10220 River Road, Suite 207, in Potomac. Their attorneys have provided real estate legal expertise and residential and commercial settlement services since 1975. Clients can obtain real estate legal assistance with residential and commercial contract preparations, foreclosures and short sales. With a 24-hour law line, they are always available to assist with legal issues and can be reached at their attorney-monitored law line at 301-406-8972.



Do you love to run? Do you care about the environment?  
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The Nature Conservancy protects the lands and waters upon which all life depends including natural treasures here in Maryland and Virginia and around the globe.

Join us, and our local Team Nature runners on Earth Day, April 22nd for Pacers' GW Parkway Classic 10-miler. Top fundraisers earn guaranteed spots and other prizes. **VISIT NATURE.ORG/RUNDC** to learn more, sign up, and support other Team Nature runners today.

For every \$1 we raise, we can plant 5 oysters in the Chesapeake Bay. Let's see what a difference our area runners and supporters can make this spring.



Not a runner, but interested in learning more about The Nature Conservancy? Scan this barcode to "like" us on Facebook today!

## Farmer Opposes County Bid Procedure

**F**armer Sophia Maravell, who is spearheading Brickyard Educational Farm (BEF) on the Montgomery County schools land along Brickyard Road in Potomac, stated concerns to Montgomery County this week about the county's acceptance of a bid for a sublease leading to the construction of parking lots and soccer fields on the site. "This letter raises serious objections which constitute a protest and appeal to the recent decision by the County to enter into a Sublease and Development Agreement with Montgomery Soccer, Inc. (MSI)," Maravell wrote.

Several aspects of the bid procedure were flawed, said Maravell in a letter hand-delivered on Monday.

In particular:

- ❖ The proposal submitted by BEF to continue providing agricultural education to the county's students on the site was not acknowledged.
- ❖ BEF preserves a unique public asset.
- ❖ BEF provides required educational outdoor opportunities on school property.
- ❖ The county rendered the bid procedure non-competitive by viewing only one bid.
- ❖ The county circumvented normal contract procedures by issuing a "request for qualifications" instead of the usual "request for proposals," thus avoid

SEE BID, PAGE 13

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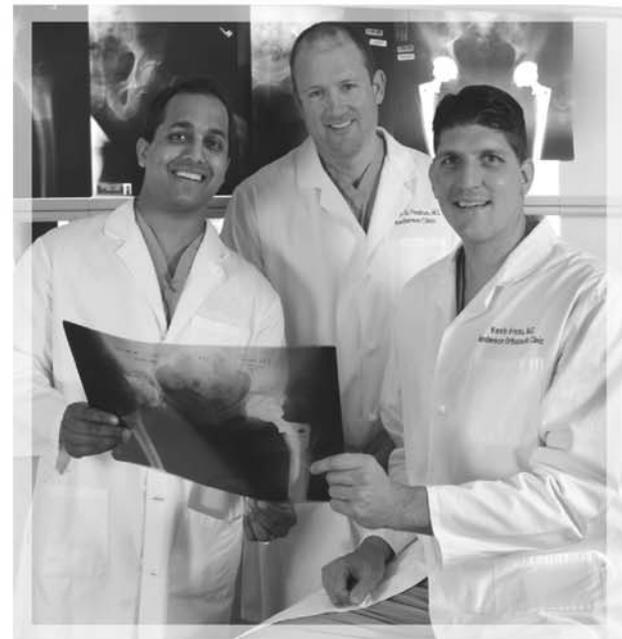
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## Bullis Boys' Lax Knocks Off Landon

After an overtime loss to Collegiate School snapped a four-game winning streak, the Bullis boys' lacrosse team responded with a 7-6 victory at Landon on April 5.

Matt Opsahl led Bullis four goals. Nick Fisher finished with two and Mitch Goldberg added one.

As of April 9, Landon was ranked No. 6 in the Washington Post's top 10 and Bullis was ranked No. 8.

The Bulldogs faced DeMatha on April 10. Results were not available prior to The Almanac's deadline. Bullis will host Episcopal at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 13.

13.

## Whitman Baseball Looks To Continue Hot Start

The Whitman baseball team, in search of its first region championship, looks to continue the kind of strong play that led to a 6-0 start.

Despite a nine-day layoff, the Vikings will have plenty of motivation to remain sharp.

Whitman returns from spring break to host Gaithersburg at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11. Gaithersburg knocked Whitman out of the playoffs each of the last two seasons, including a 9-7 victory in last year's 4A West semifinals. The Trojans also beat the Vikings during the 2011 regular season.

"I think it was almost perfect because



**Matt Opsahl scored four goals for the Bullis boys' lacrosse team during its win against Landon on April 5.**

coming back against Gaithersburg, they've ended our season the last two years," Whitman head coach Joe Cassidy said. "There's extra motivation to play them. ... They beat us twice last year, so I know that everyone coming back really had that one circled."

Cassidy said the Vikings' 6-0 start has the team confident, due primarily to whom the team has played. Whitman has victories against Poolesville, Blair, Damascus, Sherwood, Walter Johnson and Bethesda-Chevy Chase, several of which had one or

no losses before falling to the Vikings.

"It's not like," Cassidy said, "we started 6-0 and five of the teams have zero or one win."

A big reason for the strong start, Cassidy said, has been pitching. Senior left-hander Ryan McGill returned after missing most of his junior season due to injury and has not allowed a run in 12 2/3 innings, posting a 2-0 record. Offensively, he's batting .353.

"He hasn't missed a beat," Cassidy said. "He's actually hitting better than he thought he would."

Michael Flack has allowed one hit and one unearned run in 13 innings. The senior right-hander is 2-0 with one save.

Against Sherwood on March 29, Flack struck out 14 while throwing a no-hitter against Sherwood. Last year, Sherwood beat Whitman 16-2. In 2010, the Warriors beat the Vikings 8-1.

"It's so hard — I don't care who you're playing — to throw a no-hitter," Cassidy said "... [Sherwood] came down [in the past] and really kicked our teeth in and knocked Michael around on the mound. ... I know he wanted the ball for that game."

Offensively, Pat Hisle (.400), Andrew Castagnetti (.389), McGill and Mike Yang (.333) are each hitting better than .300.

## Churchill Boys' Lax Returns at 4-1

After four dominant wins against Maryland competition, the Churchill boys' lacrosse team lost to Lower Merion of Pennsylvania 10-7 on April 2. The Bulldogs, with a 4-1 record, will return to in-state action at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11 at home against Walter Johnson.

## Wootton Boys' Lax Loses Two

The Wootton boys' lacrosse team, winners of six consecutive region titles, lost to Coronado and Marriott's Ridge on April 2, bringing its record to 3-3. The Patriots return to action on Wednesday, April 11 at home against Richard Montgomery.



**Bullis' Nick Fisher scored two goals against Landon on April 5.**



**Michael Flack and the Whitman baseball team started the season 6-0 and return to action against Gaithersburg on April 11.**



**Matt Leonard and the Churchill boys' lacrosse team started the season 4-1.**

# Bid

FROM PAGE 11

ing defined procurement terms.  
 ❖ The county improperly cancelled a pre-bid conference and site inspection.

❖ The decision to accept MSI's proposal came much quicker than the June/July date originally expected, raising questions about the county's efforts to follow due diligence.

❖ Allowing a sports organization to develop school land is contrary to state and/or county laws/regulations.

❖ Decision-making without heeding public input is unacceptable.

❖ Conditions for the development of the site promised by the County Executive were left out.

Brickyard Educational Farm is a garden education program for students of Montgomery County. It offers programs that fulfill the Maryland environmental literacy standards through the No Child Left Inside initiative and the Jane Lawton Farm to School law, and provide an experiential learning model.



PHOTO BY COLLEEN HEARY/THE ALMANAC

## Artists' Tea

The third grade class at St. Raphael School held an artists' tea for their parents. Each student researched artists such as Monet, Rousseau, Picasso, and Klimt then presented their own artwork and original poem based on the artist they studied.

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**THE CONNECTION**  
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## Look What I Saw, Really



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

A male patient sitting directly across from me being infused with his unique chemotherapy cocktail, a bit too far for a conversation, but certainly close enough for a knowing/empathetic glance. He didn't look too well; jaundice in the face, a baseball cap covering up a chemotherapy-affected hair line (as I can similarly attest) and a thin physique exuding the type of stress commonly found in cancer patients being infused. Dressed casually in blue jeans and a long sleeve cotton shirt; with his sneakers pointing toward the ceiling resting on the elevated foot support of the Barcalounger as the I.V. continues its drip. Accompanied by his wife, as I overheard her described, sitting supportively to his left.

Though I had never seen this man during my three-plus years of regular (every month, basically) infusions, he looked eerily familiar, or at least his circumstances and appearance did. The more I thought about it, more so after I had left the facility, the more obvious it became: he looked like me, or rather, I looked like him. It wasn't quite like looking in the mirror, but it was a bit like seeing the truth (of my appearance). Whatever I thought I looked like (see 3/7/2012 column titled "Look What She Saw, Really") or denied what I actually looked like, it became ever more apparent and clear the longer the two of us sat across from one another. Then the clincher: I found out from my oncology nurse that this man and I were approximately the same age. Which was extremely distressing because, by looking at his gaunt and frail appearance, I would have guessed that he was much older than me. Finding out that we were close in age was in fact unsettling. Unsettling because this revelation came on top of my observation that he and I looked similar. And if I thought he looked much older than me, then maybe I too looked much older - and less healthy than I thought I did. If so, then maybe the woman in the supermarket whom I wrote about in my March 7th column had every reason to stare at me the way she did that day.

Seeing my fellow patient for what he and I apparently are, was not exactly like seeing a ghost, but it wasn't like seeing George Clooney, either. Whatever I think in my head about how I feel/how I look; presumably, if looks could kill, I'd be dead already. And since I don't want, nor think that I am dead already, considering now that my appearance might actually reflect the severity of my underlying diagnosis - in spite of how I think I feel and in spite of how people say I look, would be (A) news to me and (B) news that isn't very good.

The question is, whether it's news with which I can live. I have always tried to take this cancer diagnosis in stride and not let it effect my demeanor. Part of that strategy has involved a bit of denial to the seriousness/inevitability of it all. Seeing this fellow cancer patient sitting across from me, however, looking so familiar - and similar to me, caused not my life to pass before me, but rather my death. It's not what I had in mind when I went to the Center that day and it's rarely how I want to begin my day. Nevertheless, his image and its reality is in my head now. No wonder I felt the need to write about it.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

## PEOPLE



Area residents peruse hundreds of items for sale at the annual St. Francis Episcopal Church this past weekend, with proceeds going to the parish's outreach program and other local charities.



While shopping with his grandmother, Christian Zimmerman, 5, of Potomac, hangs out in the toy section with one of his favorite toys that he found among the items for sale.

# Thrift Sale Benefits Church Outreach, Local Charities



The St. Francis Episcopal Church relies on numerous volunteers for its annual fundraising Thrift Sale, including; Beth Higgins, and her children Betsy, Chase, Stone and Peyton, and Mary Ashworth and Carol Jarvis. Higgins and Ashworth are co-chairs for the Women of St. Francis and Jarvis serves as the current president.

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/  
THE ALMANAC

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Help Maintain Neglected Fields

The following open letter is addressed to Montgomery Soccer, Inc.

To the Editor:

Dear MSI Executive Director and Board Members:

This open letter is asking you to hold back and defer signing the sublease for the Brickyard Road

School site. Should you sign this lease, you will be signing the death warrant for Nick's Organic Farm, a unique and irreplaceable agricultural enterprise that cannot be replaced or relocated. Nick's Organic Farm is the only farm in the region that provides organic and GMO-free seed stock including heritage seed varieties. As such, it is a "keystone" enterprise for the growing organic farming industry,

and its loss will have wide and negative ramifications.

While we laud the work of MSI, particularly your Community Soccer program to bring soccer to underprivileged youth and continued financial support for the Maryland SoccerPlex, we ask that you reconsider going forward with the lease of the Brickyard site. Rather than spending millions plowing under the soil which has been husbanded

for over 30 years by Nick Maravell, we ask that you consider spending your funds on a better "public/private partnership" — funding the rehabilitation and maintenance of some of the most badly neglected playing fields belonging to our schools and parks.

**Margaret Dennis**, President  
Montgomery County Civic Federation

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